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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of government-designated experts to review the process
of preparation of National Action Plans

Catania, Italy, 14-16 December 2004

REPORT

MEETING OF GOVERNMENT-DESIGNATED EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE PROCESS OF PREPARATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

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Introduction

1. The Meeting of government-designated experts to review the process of preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs), in the framework of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), was held at the Hotel Sheraton, Catania, Italy, from 14 to 16 December 2004, partly financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC) through the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory and the Sicilian Region.
2. Government-designated experts from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.
3. The Palestinian Authority attended as an observer.
4. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were represented: United Nations Environment Programme Global Plan of Action (UNEP/GPA), World Health Organization (WHO/MED POL), Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and ERS/RAC.

Participants

5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

6. Mr Paul Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, after welcoming participants, stressed the importance of the Meeting in refocusing MAP on concrete action. After outlining the substantial work already done in implementing the SAP in countries and in the region in terms of guidelines, plans, training courses, baseline budgets (BBs) of releases and national diagnostic analyses (NDAs), he said that the review of progress made in the development of the NAPs, together with the difficulties encountered, would demonstrate the extent to which stated intentions and political will regarding implementation of the SAP were being translated into practical action on the ground so that the process could move forward.
7. Another important topic on the agenda was the review and comparison of SAP objectives and those deriving from European Community policies, rules and regulations, mainly the Water Framework Directive. As seven Contracting Parties (CPs) were now also European Union (EU) Members and there would soon be more, a coherent approach was needed to ensure that the countries concerned could meet their obligations under the two sets of regulations. It would also ensure synergy between the SAP and the EU Marine Strategy currently being finalized, in which MED POL had been actively involved since its inception. With its experience and expertise, MED POL was ideally placed to assume an important role in the future regional implementation mechanism for the Strategy.
8. The Meeting would also be reviewing the proposed new MAP/GEF Strategic Partnership, which provided for the implementation of actions identified in the NAPs and for the setting up of an investment fund. The successful implementation of the first Mediterranean GEF Project had enhanced MAP's credibility with the GEF Secretariat, which augured well for the launching of the Strategic Partnership as of 2007.

9. Lastly, given the importance of national institutional arrangements for implementation of the SAP, the Meeting would be discussing the strengthening of national institutions to support national authorities in the implementation, evaluation and updating of NAPs.

10. Mr Ante Barić, Manager, Mediterranean GEF Project, recalling that the aim of the Project was to help the Mediterranean countries to prepare the ground for implementation of the SAP by drawing up and adopting NAPs to address pollution from land-based sources, said that project support had included the preparation of guidelines for the reduction of pollution, pre-investment studies and training for over 600 national experts. He awaited with interest the forthcoming presentations of NAPs and any further requests for assistance, which still could be met - with the proviso, however, that the Project would close at the end of June 2005. He was willing to respond to any individual questions regarding GEF Project assistance, and wished the Meeting every success.

11. Mr Sergio Illuminato, Director, ERS/RAC, welcoming participants on behalf of the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory, and the Sicilian Region, said that MAP's successes over the previous 30 years had been largely due to the sharing and exchanging of experience and projects, to which ERS/RAC had contributed. The Centre's future focus would be on information and communication technologies.

12. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Coordinator, welcomed the participants and thanked the Director of ERS/RAC for the logistic support provided for the Meeting. Special thanks were due to Mr Barić for the faith demonstrated in cooperation between GEF and MED POL and the significant results that had ensued.

Agenda item 2. Election of officers

13. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Ms Alenka Malej (Slovenia)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr Abdulfatah Mohamed Boargob (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Rapporteur:	Mr Ahmet Yakut (Turkey)

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/1, which appears as Annex II to the present report.

15. The rules of procedure for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) applied *mutatis mutandis* to the Meeting of government-designated experts to review the process of preparation of NAPs.

16. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, said that the Meeting would be held in plenary to allow an open exchange of views on the preparation of NAPs.

Agenda item 4. Review of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address Pollution from Land-based Activities and of its operational strategy (2001-2005)

17. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, said that the refocusing of the MED POL Programme on concrete action, i.e. on pollution reduction, through the implementation of the SAP had represented a challenge. He recalled that, following the adoption of MED POL

Phase III and signature of the Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol, the SAP had been approved in 1997, and national reports on hot spots and sensitive areas had been prepared between 1997 and 2001. The first draft of the operational document to guide the concrete implementation of the SAP had been prepared in 2000, and then revised and approved in 2001. The groundwork for the preparation of NAPs had been completed and the preparation of SPs had been initiated in March 2004.

18. The NAPs would be the culminating point of all SAP activities as they were expected to specify the action to be taken, the timetable, and the financing for activities aiming at meeting the SAP targets.

19. Mr Civili said that progress had been encouraging and the majority of Parties had already completed their NDAs and their BBs. In June 2004, contracts with designated experts had been drawn up and it was expected that all the NAPs would be ready in 2005.

20. He outlined the tasks in the operational document for the implementation of the SAP, which could be grouped under three main headings: technical, institutional and financial. The technical component was the most advanced, while the institutional and financial aspects would be addressed at the present meeting.

21. In response to questions raised by some representatives concerning the monitoring programme, Mr Civili emphasized that the MED POL Programme had been ongoing since the 1980s and, with the advent of the SAP, it was a question of adapting the MED POL monitoring programme to cover the needs arising from the implementation of the SAP. He could assure the Meeting that the adaptation process was on track and would be taken into account in the preparation of the future MED POL Phase IV.

Agenda item 5. National presentations on the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs)

22. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, introducing the item, suggested that the reports on the preparation of NAPs be presented by countries, to be followed by comments by the MED POL consultant and discussion from the floor.

Algeria

23. The representative of Algeria drew attention to the work undertaken on SPs. Pollutant loads had been quantified by sector in order to identify the sources responsible for marine pollution. Public authorities had been made aware of the value of and the need for SPs. The national integrated coastal area management strategy had been prepared and the legislative structure enhanced. Performance contracts had been concluded and, in the second stage, they had been extended to a further set of industries. A national hazardous waste management strategy had been drawn up and represented one of the key elements in reducing the volume of pollutants released into the environment. The legislative and institutional framework had been strengthened in order to ensure broader participation in the overall environmental protection process in the context of sustainable development.

24. Problems included the difficulty of mobilizing industry and a degree of confusion concerning the respective roles of the SPs and the NAP. Algeria would benefit from assistance in targeting cleaner production technologies as well as from the organization of special workshops for certain key sectors. A summary of the experience in other countries at an advanced stage in the sectoral and National Action Plan process would also be helpful.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

25. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina said that the main priority areas identified as a result of the BB and the NDA were urban wastewater, industrial wastewater, urban solid waste, nutrients and suspended solids, and hazardous substances. The main pollutants identified were BOD from industry; BOD, nitrogen and phosphorus from urban wastewater; hazardous substances and obsolete chemicals; air pollutants (dioxins/furans from transport) and uncontrolled dumping sites. Technical solutions had been proposed for priority issues and economic instruments (EIs) developed with a view to the implementation of the SAP. Cleaner production had been identified as a necessary in-plant measure to reduce pollution by industry, although it was not yet applied in the majority of industries. Its introduction would require reforms, education and time. Pollutant emissions were calculated rather than measured so there was a risk that when industries increased their capacity, pollution might be under-estimated and inadequate measures taken.

26. The main constraints concerned the percentage of pollution reduction (particularly for industry). It would only be possible to identify specific solutions and consequently estimate the percentage of pollution reduction when environmental diagnoses had been carried out for each industry. Otherwise, there would only be a rough estimate.

Croatia

27. The representative of Croatia said that her country had completed preparation of its NDA, BB and EIs. An inter-ministerial committee, made up of representatives of various Governmental bodies, State agencies, scientific institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations, had been established to appraise those documents and to evaluate the SPs and the NAP. Recently adopted documents and legal acts, together with others in the pipeline, would be used in formulating the NAP. The SPs and the NAP had been delayed owing to administrative problems, however, it was expected that they would be completed on time. The assistance received from the MAP Secretariat and the GEF Project Coordinator had been useful, and she expressed the hope that it would continue.

European Commission

28. The representative of the European Commission emphasized that the relationship between the SAP and European Community legislation was an important issue for those Parties to the Barcelona Convention that were also members of the European Union. Implementation of the SAP would help to improve the Mediterranean marine environment, an objective that was also found in Community legislation. The SAP should therefore be supported. The Commission once again stated that it would do its utmost to ensure that the LBS Protocol was implemented in a manner that was compatible with and mutually supportive of implementation of Community legislation.

Greece

29. The representative of Greece said that her country's SPs and NAP had been formulated in accordance with the respective guidelines furnished. During the process, it had become evident that the existing national programmes related to each sector coincided with obligations within the European Union and national legal frameworks. Compliance with those frameworks would address most, if not all, the projects required in the SAP. It was unlikely that implementation of the NAP would require deviation from the actions that had already been programmed, from national planning or from the hierarchy of projects deriving from the specific obligations and timetables set by European Union Directives. The future challenge related to implementation of the Water Framework Directive at the level of the river basin district, which covered, *inter alia*, the objectives of the SAP.

Comments

30. Mr Michael Angelides, MED POL Consultant, commenting on the presentations, said that the exercise of preparing NAPs had clearly helped countries to identify and address their priorities, even though some had mentioned difficulties in committing themselves to a strict timetable for attaining outcomes, mainly owing to financial constraints. He urged countries to include specific sub-targets in their NAPs.

31. He congratulated the country representatives on their clear presentations and detailed analyses of the problems to be addressed. Nevertheless, he called on them to present specific figures with regard to the achievement of the SAP targets. He said that the presentation by the representative of the European Commission had underscored the compatibility of the aims of the European Union's Marine Strategy with those of the MAP, particularly with respect to the ecosystem approach.

32. The representative of Morocco said that his country required technical assistance for finalizing its NAP, with respect to the best available, rational methods for destroying stocks of pesticides, outdated products and wastes containing heavy metals.

33. Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, welcomed the presentation made on behalf of Algeria, which clearly identified the problems encountered in meeting the SAP objectives. That would form a useful basis for discussion at the present Meeting, and he hoped that other representatives would follow suit.

34. In response to questions, the representative of the European Commission said that an eco-regional management plan would be a legal obligation for Member States of the European Union only if the proposal currently being prepared was accepted by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Member States within the same eco-region, such as Italy and Slovenia, should jointly prepare a management plan.

35. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, added that the subdivision of the Mediterranean region into sub-regional units would be made at a later stage, in cooperation with all countries. He said that the European Union's Marine Strategy was firmly based on the existing policies, decisions and institutional arrangements of the Barcelona Convention. The SAP and the Marine Strategy therefore complemented and reinforced one another. He also recalled that the application of the ecosystem approach had been the subject of a decision taken by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It had been decided that the approach would be applied slowly on the basis of experience gained in its practical implementation, and MEDPOL was serving as a testing ground.

36. The MAP Coordinator emphasized the synergistic nature of the relationship between the European Union and MAP. Contracting Parties that were also Member States of the European Union were in the advantageous position of being able to militate for MAP within European institutions.

Cyprus

37. The representative of Cyprus said that the SPs had been prepared and the NAP was being developed. A list of land-based sources of pollution had been identified and quantified. Measures for the reduction of pollutants had been identified in order to meet the reduction targets indicated in the SPs and the SAP. Contacts with the competent authorities and other interested parties and organizations had been held. The national EIs for each pollutant sector had been identified and he indicated that most of them were already in effect. The investment portfolio for the implementation of the NAP would be identical to that appearing in the National Strategic Plan for the Environment prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture,

Natural Resources and the Environment pending approval by the Council of Ministers. One possible barrier to the implementation of the NAP in accordance with the agreed time schedule was the need to proceed in parallel with existing national instruments such as the Strategic Plans for the Environment and the Sustainable Management of Wastes, which were being approved by the Government. Assistance might be required for implementation of the NAP.

Egypt

38. The representative of Egypt explained that unforeseen circumstances had delayed the preparation of her country's SPs and had necessitated the reorganization of the planning team. The coordination work had now resumed, however, and the preparation of the plans was well under way. The NDA had been completed, as had the BB, and the necessary data concerning periodic analyses and hot spots had been collected. A report would shortly be forwarded to MED POL, together with a request for assistance.

France

39. Presenting her country's progress report on the NAP, the representative of France said that the control of land-based pollution in France was subject to a wide range of international, Community and national regulations. In order to facilitate their implementation, action and investment programmes and other measures had been developed at the national and local levels.

40. NAP preparation had consisted primarily in identifying the policies whose objectives corresponded with those of the SAP. The NAP structure fell into three categories (water, waste, air) divided into sectoral programmes according to the source of the pollution (urban or industrial). The NAP was currently being finalized. It would be validated at the inter-ministerial level at the beginning of 2005 and forwarded to MED POL during the first quarter of the year.

Israel

41. The representatives of Israel reported that an updated hot spots report had been submitted, a Ministry of the Environment Steering Committee established, the NDA and BB completed, and the expert team for NAP formulation selected. A "business as usual" projection based on existing legislation, programmes, plans and practices would possibly enable targets to be met; remaining gaps and options for bridging them would be submitted to the inter-ministerial committee. Further work was planned on impact matrices, cost-effectiveness analyses and evaluation of EIs to implement reduction targets. Submission of the draft NAP and SPs was scheduled for June 2005, and Government approval for October 2005, given the internal political constraints. Problems to be addressed included assistance needed for the preparation of the investment portfolio and prioritizing projects; funding sources for NAP implementation; and free flow of information and documents among experts and between them and the MED POL Secretariat was extremely important and should be strengthened.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

42. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya explained the difficulty of drawing up a NAP and SPs in a country like his own, with a highly decentralized administrative structure. Only oil, natural gas and energy production and distribution came under the authority of the national administration, whereas education, health, wastewater treatment, domestic waste disposal, industrial activities and agriculture lay within the competence of the autonomous administrative districts or *shabeyat*. A consultation meeting with the MED POL Secretariat would be needed to determine the best way to proceed. The NDA had recently

been completed and preparation of the BB was under way. Lack of data and of a long-term development plan to meet the 2005 SAP targets were among the problems encountered. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requested the assistance of International experts in preparing the NAP report, and more time for its completion.

Malta

43. The representative of Malta said that implementation of the SPs and the NAP would be guided by three basic principles: (i) the need to integrate the work within the comprehensive National Strategy for Sustainable Development under preparation in Malta; (ii) the need to use existing legal and administrative structures; and (iii) use of the methods, data and reports prepared as part of the EU accession process. A database of all point sources and discharge parameters had been prepared and would form the basis for the SPs and NAP. Not only were stakeholders involved and informed of the programme's aims and targets but a thematic working group would also be set up to ensure broader participation and integration within Malta's sustainable development policy. The drafting of the NAP would also see further formal public involvement. MAP's assistance during the finalization of the SPs and the NAP would be welcomed

Comments

44. Mr Angelides, MED POL Consultant, said that several interesting issues had emerged from the presentations just made. One was the importance, as Malta had pointed out, of incorporating NAPs into existing ongoing programmes as a better guarantee of success in achieving targets and meeting commitments. Likewise, as Israel had observed, the effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation might well avert the need for new environmental protection laws. On the subject of targets, the setting of specific quantitative targets facilitated monitoring and evaluation, as had been mentioned, for instance, by Algeria, Malta and Greece. Regarding the timetable for the adoption of NAPs, it should be borne in mind that the process was due to be completed by June 2005 and that NAPs should be adopted by then. It was of course up to each country to determine the level of authority for adoption but it was obvious that, if adopted at a very high governmental level, they would receive the strong political support they would need to ensure implementation.

45. It had been noted that some countries, such as France, had opted for a different categorization of sectors under the SPs from that provided for in the SAP. What was important was that the agreed final targets were met and that the NAPs addressed the full range of pollutants covered by the SAP so that their reduction could be tracked and implementation of commitments to the SAP could be monitored.

46. Another issue, raised by the Libyan representative, was that of a country's administrative organization with a highly complex and fragmented system that could seriously complicate sectoral planning and the final pollution reduction targets. In such a situation, a different approach might be adopted, taking for example the administrative units, where the major sources of pollution were located, as the starting-point for pollution measurement and reduction such as the oil and energy sectors and urban development.

47. Finally, the Secretariat assured countries still requiring assistance of its willingness to consider their requests.

Monaco

48. In the absence of a representative of Monaco, Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, read out a communication from Monaco stating that Monaco's NAP would be formulated in accordance with the methodology and timetable recommended by MED POL. The BB for 2003 and the NDA had already been established, as well as the problems/impact

matrix. Meetings were currently being held with a view to drawing up SPs. The NAP itself should be finalized and submitted to the Government early in 2005, and its adoption was expected during the first quarter of 2006.

Morocco

49. The representative of Morocco said that compilation of the data and additional information required for the preparation of SPs and the NAP had commenced at the technical and institutional levels. The inter-ministerial steering committee set up to guide the experts' work had adopted the methodology outlined in the SAP. The environmental issues to be tackled had been prioritized taking into account the major pollution hot spots and sources along the coast. Strong pressures exerted on the coast had been identified as the cause of current or future environmental degradation. In parallel, national or regional plans for treating liquid and solid waste being implemented or formulated would result in a 50 per cent reduction in overall loads of organic pollutants released into the Mediterranean by 2010 and the establishment of three new controlled disposal sites within three years. Inventories of stocks of obsolete pesticides, PCBs and hazardous chemicals had been drawn up and an approach to the rational management of those critical sectors was being formulated. The next step would be the holding of regional workshops starting in January 2005.

Slovenia

50. The representative of Slovenia said that agreed priority actions focused on the construction and modernization of municipal wastewater treatment plants and public sewage networks. Although a system for the collection and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes already existed, it needed to be upgraded. Emissions of pollutants from industrial installations would be further reduced when the EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive entered into force (by October 2007), and all industrial installations in Slovenia would have to meet emission limits in accordance with the relevant BAT. Heavy metals and organohalogenes were of minor concern, although some national activities were foreseen to reduce and eliminate their emission.

51. Emissions of pollutants from land-based sources had to be in harmony with existing Slovenian and European directives and rules. Broad bilateral, regional and international cooperation was required to reduce pollution effectively, and to improve and further protect the marine environment in the whole of the Gulf of Trieste.

Spain

52. In the absence of the representative of Spain, Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, informed the Meeting that, in a communication, Spain had said that it would transmit its BB in January 2005. The NDA had been completed in Spanish, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the diagnostic method for hot spots would be finalized in March 2005. Spain would then be in a position to complete its NAP by mid-2005.

Serbia and Montenegro

53. The representative of Serbia and Montenegro informed the Meeting that the BB and NDA were being evaluated. Impacts had been determined for wastewater release, solid waste release, tourism, shipyards, storage and distribution of petroleum products, the metal and food industries, port services and transport. The main activities conducted with a view to reducing the release of pollutants were connecting all household and other sources to the public sewerage system, construction of wastewater treatment plants for towns with over 100,000 inhabitants, and regular control and treatment of emissions from shipyards or petroleum storage facilities. It was planned to hold inter-ministerial meetings, public information events and other activities. The major problems encountered were the

compilation of data, changes to the composition of local authorities, the lack of wastewater treatment plants and the measurement of the volume of waste. Serbia and Montenegro would welcome assistance either by electronic means or through visits by experts.

Syrian Arab Republic

54. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that his country had conducted two workshops to identify environmental priorities at the level of the coastal administrative regions. They had proved an excellent pilot exercise for public participation, giving all stakeholders an opportunity to discuss and substantiate their opinions in a “brainstorming” process. On the basis of the prioritization, a background paper was being prepared for each issue. It would address the scope of the problem, its impact and provide an analysis thereof. There would also be recommendations, including suggestions for pollution prevention control based on CP, BAT, BEP, and legislative and institutional and capacity-building requirements. The existing plans provided by the relevant ministries had been taken into account. The background papers would be discussed within each sector and, after a common understanding had been reached, they would form the basis for the SPs and subsequently for the NAP, following incorporation of the EIs and investment portfolios.

Tunisia

55. The representative of Tunisia said that Tunisia’s BB and NDA had been prepared and approved by the inter-ministerial committee. Regional workshops on environmental strategic planning had led to identification of the threats and challenges. Non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector, women and the media had been closely involved in all the stages of preparing regional strategies, which had been approved by Regional Development Councils in each governorate. The major problems were the lack of data and the need to evaluate the impact of certain emissions in some coastal areas, combined with the short time allowed for the preparation of the SPs and the NAP. Moreover, the NAP had to be in harmony with national plans and programmes. Technical assistance was needed for feasibility studies that would allow projects to be included in regional and national development plans, as well as for the preparation and implementation of a communication strategy and action plan so as to broaden the information base, and for the organization of a workshop on follow-up and evaluation of the NAP within the SAP framework.

Turkey

56. The representative of Turkey informed the Meeting that Turkey’s BB and NDA had been completed. The EI reports had been provisionally finalized, but were still the subject of negotiation. Environmental regulations were being revised and modified so that SAP requirements could be met. Some SP and NAP reports had not been completed, however, and additional time was needed.

Lebanon

57. In the absence of a representative of Lebanon, Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, reported that second drafts of the SPs and the NAP for that country had been sent to the regional expert for evaluation. The expert would make a report on progress in the preparation of NAPs for all the Contracting Parties.

Albania

58. A report on preparation of SPs for Albania indicated that an inter-ministerial working group had identified the priorities for interventions in the coastal zone. The sources of most

discharges of pollutants were sewerage, urban wastewater and battery farms. The planned measures for reducing the levels of pollutants were construction of wastewater treatment plants in all urban centres by 2015, construction of sanitary landfills in accordance with the national legal framework and formulation of legal instruments to reduce air pollution from traffic and industrial sources. Funds had been secured to clean up and rehabilitate pollution hot spots. Legal provisions and national plans were to be drawn up for the identification and management of contaminants such as lead, organohalogen compounds, used lubricating oils, batteries and POPs. Cleaner production was conceived as an integral part of pollution reduction and would be encouraged through training, clean-up, recycling and promoting BAT.

Palestinian Authority

59. The representative of the Palestinian Authority reported on the following achievements: preparation of a National Diagnostic Plan, of a BB and of SPs; assessment of health risks, clean-up level of the Gaza wastewater treatment plant and marine water quality of Gaza City as a top priority hot spot; establishment of a National Committee; development of multi-criteria analysis and prioritization of actions; formulation of actions/projects; cost estimate, and selection of locations and parameters for monitoring. The next steps scheduled were a review of the draft action plan by stakeholders, adoption by the Ministerial Cabinet, and fund-raising.

Comments

60. Mr Angelides, MED POL Consultant, commenting on the preceding presentations, remarked on the importance of the participatory approach in the preparation of NAPs. He congratulated those representatives who had clearly identified potential problems and the measures necessary to meet sub-targets, and those who had presented quantitative estimates of targeted reductions in pollutant levels. He concurred with the last speaker on the usefulness of describing health risks in order to mobilize stakeholders and politicians.

Agenda item 6. Review of achievements and problems emerging from the national presentations

6.1 Overall methodology used in the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs)

61. Mr Angelides, MED POL Consultant, reiterated the guidelines for the preparation of SPs and NAPs, emphasizing the importance of using quantitative information on the relevant pollutants and defining quantitative targets for their reduction. It was essential that the BB, which was based on quantified releases of pollutants, be taken into account in preparing SPs. He also emphasized the importance of drawing up lists of priorities for 2010, as no country would be able to address all the environmental problems in the Mediterranean. He recalled that the list should be drawn up in the light of environmental and socio-economic issues, policy and legislative frameworks and the available management, institutional and technical infrastructure in the country. The list should include quantified estimates of pollutant reduction by 2010. He proposed that each country present a table of the expected releases of pollutants or other measurable results by 2010 in relation to the SAP targets. The tables would help both national authorities and UNEP/MAP to monitor progress and to make or propose any necessary adjustments.

62. Mr George Kamizoulis, Senior Scientist WHO/MED POL, remarked that some representatives had not mentioned municipal wastewater treatment plants in presenting their SPs, although that was an important health aspect. Assistance should be provided to those countries in which problems had been encountered with wastewater re-use. Tertiary treatment, mentioned by some countries, was a positive step. Sludge discharge into the sea

should be prevented and MED POL could assist countries in that respect. He emphasized the importance of inspections to ensure enforcement of measures taken under NAPs.

63. The representative of the European Commission pointed out the synergy between the SAP, the LBS Protocol and European Union legislation. Complementary implementation processes were needed for mutual support.

64. Mr Ulrik Dan Weuder, UNEP/GPA, said that close coordination was needed among all stakeholders. Ministries of the environment were usually limited to making plans and proposals, whereas implementation was ensured by ministries of planning and finance, and enforcement and compliance by ministries of justice. Mr Angelides, MED POL Consultant, added that most countries had set up inter-ministerial committees for that purpose.

65. In response to requests from a number of representatives, Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, said that in 2005 the data in the countries' NDAs and BBs would be added to the MED POL database, which at present contained the results of monitoring programmes. The creation of a wider information system was being planned with the assistance of ERS/RAC. Furthermore, the presentations that had been made at the Meeting could be made available on a CD-ROM. He agreed with previous speakers that exchanges of expertise and experience between countries on common problems would be useful and MED POL could assist them in that respect.

66. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic commented that, although BBs were based on estimates made with the software provided by MED POL, the achievement of targets would be measured quantitatively and that there was a need gradually to replace estimates by real monitoring data. Mr Angelides replied that the monitoring systems that were to be established within the SAP would reveal any deviation from the initial BBs, and the necessary adjustments could be made to NAPs. He recalled that the objective of the SAP was to protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution; estimates and measurements were merely tools that allowed countries to see what reductions had been made. Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, added that the suggested emission factors had been based on the best available information worldwide. As the methodology used to establish BBs was different in each country, it could be expected that the uncertainties would be similar. Nevertheless, periodic reviews would allow fine-tuning of NAPs during their implementation. Measurements of reductions in emission loads in the marine environment would demonstrate the predictive value of land-based measurements, while monitoring of trends would indicate the effects on the marine environment.

67. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, reminded representatives that the SAP would become legally binding once the LBS Protocol had come into force; only the signature of one more country was needed. The SAP would be reviewed periodically in the light of intervening developments at the international and national levels; however, the dates that had been fixed for the attainment of objectives must be respected. The Secretariat would continue to offer assistance in capacity-building and in ensuring financial sustainability so that countries could meet their commitments to the SAP.

68. Mr Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, emphasized that every effort should be made to achieve the SAP targets within the agreed time. The entire process could, however, be reviewed in 2010, and any necessary revision to the SAP targets could be made at that time.

6.2 Preparation of investment portfolios

69. Mr Glafkos Constantinides, MED POL Expert made a presentation focusing on three main points: (i) general comments on the task of preparing investment portfolios were reflected in the various country reports on the respective NAPs; (ii) the main objectives and

points for the preparation of investment portfolios had already been elaborated in Izmit in March 2004; and (iii) an overview of environmental investment sources and mechanisms.

70. He stressed the need to ensure that investment portfolios were incorporated in the NAPs. If not, the NAPs would be incomplete and there would be implementation problems. Various funding sources were outlined and some recent trends towards private sector participation were explained. The affordability issue was stressed as a factor that would continue to limit the extent of the private sector solution to investment in environmental infrastructure construction and operation.

6.3 Public participation

71. Mr Baher Kamal, MAP Information Officer, addressed the subject of public participation. He expressed the Secretariat's positive feeling about the success achieved by most of the countries in integrating the process of public participation into the core of the NAP preparation exercise. He underscored that public participation was not a mere component or activity, but a process that effectively facilitated the achievement of the SAP's ultimate goals. By bringing stakeholders on board, they became more aware and hence more actively involved, had a sense of ownership, and contributed to preparation and implementation, thereby improving the quality of decisions, increasing trust in institutions, reducing conflicts and achieving cost-effectiveness.

72. He gave examples of countries that performed best and reiterated MAP's willingness to provide assistance to countries, both technical and financial, to ensure that they carried out the process in the most appropriate manner.

73. He invited countries to report on their respective experiences in that field, selecting Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Syrian Arab Republic as representative cases. He also called for an active exchange of information and experience between the countries and MAP and among countries.

74. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina briefly reviewed two stakeholder meetings that had been held in her country in 2004 with the aim of involving a wide range of stakeholders at all stages of the NAP preparation process. The first meeting had been held in July 2004, at a time when the NDA and BB had not yet been widely circulated, for the purpose of informing participants about the SAP and the GEF Project, the objectives and expected results of the NAP and the SPs, and the guidelines, methodology and timeframe for the preparation of the requisite documents.

75. The second meeting, in November 2004, had benefited greatly from the awareness raised by the first exercise, and had accordingly seen the active participation of a well-informed audience from the public and private sectors and civil society.

76. Mr Angelides, MED POL Consultant, reported on his experience as participant at a highly successful stakeholder meeting held in the Syrian Arab Republic, covering the priority issues of two of the country's regions. In the course of a two-day session, representatives of ministries, Parliament, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry and the scientific community had engaged in an active and constructive dialogue on all the environmental issues important to the region, and had voted on priorities. The meeting had demonstrated the importance of the participatory approach, which gave stakeholders a sense of ownership of the SAP and, by enlisting their support, was conducive to its sustainability.

6.4 Application of economic instruments

77. Ms Maja Fredotovic, PAP/RAC Expert, said in introducing the item that EIs for environmental purposes had gained in importance in the Mediterranean. From the presentations of the NAPs it could be noted that legal, institutional and administrative arrangements represented a considerable obstacle to the development and/or improvement of the EIs. The majority of the proposed EIs implied merely a modification or improvement of existing EIs. Most of the proposed EIs were revenue-raising; hence, due attention should be paid to implementation and administration costs as well as equity issues.

78. In general, the impression was that EI objectives should be kept more closely in line with SAP priorities. Moreover, it appeared that the EIs were still to be incorporated into the NAPs in more detailed manner.

79. To that end, a few methodological suggestions were offered: to focus on EIs that were likely to be operative by 2010; to rely on existing legal and institutional arrangements (while at the same time initiating, their change so as to facilitate the introduction of new EIs in the long term); to design EIs that were as simple and clear as possible in terms of implementation processes and measures; to estimate carefully the burden placed on the local population and economy by revenue-raising EIs; and, finally, to define measurable performance parameters and a transparent monitoring system. Last but not least, regional cooperation in relation to transboundary pollution and financing possibilities should be ensured, through the SAP or otherwise.

6.5 Application of cleaner technology

80. Introducing the item, Mr Víctor Macià, MED POL Expert, gave a presentation on cleaner production techniques related to SAP implementation, NAPs and SPs.

81. He identified the diverse situations presented by countries in relation to cleaner production and industrial pollution, but also several common trends. Among them were the considerable efforts made by the countries, together with a wide range of difficulties that could be summed up as a lack of legal, financial, technical, human and infrastructure means and tools. He also referred to other relevant aspects such as the need to identify local capacities, to quantify reliable data and to ascertain the extent to which the results obtained covered SAP targets.

82. He underlined the need to reinforce the systems for monitoring and compliance and enforcement mechanisms together with economic instruments, to make industries more aware of the advantages of cleaner production strategies.

83. In view of the time and effort required for a legislative or regulatory updating process, he recommended, as a practical strategy to be carried out in parallel, to begin by optimizing the implementation of existing legislation and tools. With such a strategy not only could positive and effective results in industrial pollution reduction ensue in the short term, but the main actors - administrations, industries - would be better prepared to make effective use of future regulations.

Agenda item 7. Analysis of the sustainability of the Strategic Action Programme

84. Mr Mohamed Kayyal, MED POL Expert, presented a study on integration of the SAP into the socio-economic aspects of development in Mediterranean countries (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/3). A sustainability analysis of the SAP had been conducted based on its conformity with the Principles in the Rio Declaration. Sustainability had been

assessed on the basis of two simple tests: did the SAP lead to equity at the intra- and inter-generational levels ? Specific criteria had been developed based on the 17 applicable Principles in the Rio Declaration and conformity assessed against the criteria. It was concluded that intra-generational equity could be satisfied by enabling transboundary stakeholders to have a say in the action undertaken within the frameworks of NAPs in neighbouring countries. Inter-generational equity could be achieved by introducing into the SAP process a framework for conducting risk assessments on a regular basis and by implementing the necessary mitigation measures within the NAPs. The latter would have to be updated regularly and be subject to review and comments by both local and transboundary stakeholders. MED POL should plan for the adoption of the differentiated approach when circumstances so dictated. In the meantime, countries should try to integrate the environmental protection measures in their NAPs into the socio-development plans of their respective countries while internalizing environmental costs and MED POL should map out a role for becoming involved in that process in the future.

85. Following Mr Kayyal's presentation, several representatives raised questions concerning the adoption of the differentiated approach. In response to the suggestion that a time limit be set for its adoption, Mr. Kayyal said that it would not be possible to set a time frame until a clearer picture existed. At present, the impact of action planned for 2010 could not be predicted and there was, in general, a lack of data. There was no doubt that the differentiated approach would eventually have to be adopted, but when remained a matter for conjecture.

86. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, added that it had deliberately been decided not to adopt the differentiated approach when the SAP had been launched, but that could change in the future, possibly at the time of the first review of the SAP. For the time being, some basic data were still missing and the equal approach appeared the preferable option.

87. Some representatives felt that the conclusions in the presentation were subjective. The study simply reiterated the Principles universally adopted at Johannesburg and Rio de Janeiro. One representative considered that it was either premature or too late to draw such conclusions. In his view, it would have been preferable to start from a baseline and measure what had been achieved.

88. One representative emphasized that the NAPs had to be adopted at the highest governmental level, which was the only way of ensuring support for the SAP. Each country had to apply sustainable development principles both within and outside the SAP.

89. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, explained that the intention of the study had been to have an external overview and to prompt reactions. It would be up to countries to accept or reject the conclusions and to decide how to make use of them in the formulation of the future MED POL Phase IV.

90. Mr Kayyal, MED POL Expert, added that the SAP was a process that was still in its early stages. The focus at present should be on intra-generational equity and inter-generational equity would only come into play at a later stage. It was countries, not the SAP, that were responsible for development programmes. Sustainable development comprised social development, economic development and the environment, and the SAP was related to the latter.

91. A representative wondered whether the study implied that sustainability had not been taken into account in the SAP. Another representative pointed out that sustainable development indicators already existed in many countries and it would suffice to bring them into line with the SAP targets rather than use the criteria outlined in the presentation.

92. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, responded that the conclusion of the study was that certain elements might be looked at anew, but in no way did it indicate that the approach adopted had been wrong.

93. Mr Kayyal, MED POL Expert, agreed that sustainable development was hard to apply. One of its principles was that the socio-economic benefits of action taken had to outweigh the cost of the natural capital lost, but the evaluation of natural capital was a science and involved complex environmental economics. The SAP was a process that represented a challenge for Contracting Parties rather than for the MED POL Programme.

94. In response to queries concerning the follow-up to the study, Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, suggested that, as the study might be taken into account in the formulation of MED POL Phase IV, the Secretariat should invite comments thereon and proposals as to which specific points might be considered when preparing Phase IV. The matter could be discussed further at the meeting of MED POL Coordinators to be held in May 2005.

95. Ms Maria Caparis, MED POL Consultant, presented a comparative analysis of the provisions of the SAP with those measures taken by the European Community to combat municipal and industrial pollution of the marine environment (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.262/6). Those measures included the proposed Marine Strategy, the Water Framework Directive and other directives related to water, the Directive concerning water pollution by discharges of dangerous substances, the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive, a number of directives dealing with the management of specific wastes and recommendations on environmental inspections by Member States. The comparison showed a close correspondence between the SAP provisions and those of the European Union. The conclusion drawn from the analysis was that effective planning and implementation of long-term activities within the SAP by countries that were both Member States of the European Union and Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention would not be hindered by contradictory commitments, and would not jeopardize their participation.

96. The representative of the European Commission said that, although there might be no political conflict, a further analysis should be conducted to ensure legal compatibility in view of the legally binding nature of the Barcelona Convention, particularly following the ruling of the European Court of Justice that it was competent to decide on the application of the legal instruments of the Barcelona Convention by the Member States concerned.

97. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives underlined the usefulness of the demonstration that current and potential Member States of the European Union would have no conflict in implementing the SAP. Mr George Kamizoulis, WHO/EURO Project Office, added that the MED POL/WHO draft criteria for bathing water quality were being prepared and were in harmony with those of the European Union.

98. The MAP Coordinator said that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as such were not bound by the legal instruments of the European Union. Nevertheless, the two had common objectives. He agreed with several speakers that an analysis of possible dissimilar elements in the obligations to the two bodies would be useful.

Agenda item 8. Institutional needs for the long-term implementation of Naction Action Plans

99. Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, presented an assessment of cooperative actions for transferring technology in the framework of the implementation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)MED WG.262/4). He emphasized the importance of making use of science and technology in the implementation of the SAP and therefore of finding means to do so properly. That had become clear in the interventions of country representatives and

from experience gained in implementation of European Union directives. The issue had also been highlighted by UNEP and GPA. Institutional set-ups existed throughout the region, but it would be important to reorient or modulate their objectives and activities to assist national and local actors in implementing NAPs.

100. Mr Petros Samaras, MED POL Consultant, presented a proposal for the establishment of national environmental management centres for supporting Mediterranean countries in the preparation and implementation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/5). The centre would act as a consulting body and technical think-tank and would collaborate closely with national MED POL authorities. The technical activities would include support to NAPs, monitoring of environmental conditions, training and consultation, participation in research and development programmes and establishment of an environmental "incubator". The organizational structure of such a centre would consist of an advisory board, a scientific committee, a steering committee, a director and a core group of about 15 officers. Potential funding sources should include national and international funds. The centre could start on the basis of existing structures and develop preliminary low-cost activities that would form the background for more extensive action.

101. Mr Abousamra, MEDPOL Programme Officer, reassured the Meeting that the proposed centre could more appropriately be considered a coordinating unit for helping countries to implement their NAPs, by providing assistance to local and national actors responsible for the implementation of NAPs. The idea had been to design an entity based on the most appropriate national institutional set-up.

102. The ensuing discussion highlighted the possible conflicts that might arise from the proposal to involve both public and private funding and participants. The situation with respect to funding such a unit would differ from one country to another. A number of representatives considered that the proposed activities of such a unit were already being carried out nationally at government level, where effective coordination could be better ensured than through an outside structure. One representative considered that any financial resources should be oriented to issues with higher priority that could in fact ensure the sustainability of the SAP rather than to creating such units, for example, support for inter-ministerial committees.

103. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, said that the proposal had been presented to stimulate discussion. Elements of external views such as those presented could be useful in planning long-term implementation of the SAP; however, countries would decide themselves on the technical and political structures they would need to implement their NAP.

104. The representative of Morocco said that the Information Centre on Sustainable Energy and the Environment (CIEDE), described in detail in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/5, was in fact a part of the Department of the Environment and should not be considered a separate entity. He asked therefore that the description be removed from the document.

Agenda item 9. Prospects for the economic sustainability of the Strategic Action Programme

105. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, briefly presented the content of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem, a new initiative of UNEP and GEF that could provide substantial support for the future implementation of the SAP and the SAP BIO. He recalled that, on the basis of the successful results of the Mediterranean GEF Project, UNEP and GEF had proposed a new wider partnership that would integrate pollution control, conservation of biodiversity, management of freshwater and management of fisheries in a joint initiative. The Strategic Partnership would comprise two major

components, namely a regional component and the establishment of an investment fund, that were interlinked. The main objective of the Partnership was to assist countries in implementing policy, institutional and legal reforms aiming at achieving the targets of the SAP and SAP BIO by focusing on capacity-building for pollution reduction, conservation of biodiversity, management of coastal aquifers and fisheries and integrated coastal area management, including the development of the long-term sustainable financing capacity of countries. The investment fund would be an initiative of the World Bank under which loans on favourable terms could be given to countries for investment intended to achieve the targets of the SAP and SAP BIO.

106. Mr Baric, GEF Project Manager, said that the latest information was that the concept paper concerning the project had been technically approved but was not yet in the pipeline. Taking account of the time needed for budget development for PDF-B and subsequent approval of the project brief by the GEF Council, implementation could be expected to start on 1 January 2007 at the earliest, but more realistically on 1 January 2008.

107. Mr Trumbić, Director, PAP/RAC, gave an overview of the activities carried out by his Centre in relation to EIs. After initial analysis, which had resulted in the "state-of-the-art" of the use of EIs in the Mediterranean, the emphasis had been on their practical application. A number of pilot projects had been undertaken, all of which would shortly be completed. The methodological approaches to defining and designing, measuring the effects of, and evaluating the EIs had been devised. Finally, most of the countries had prepared, or were preparing, the EI components of the NAPs. Experience showed that those instruments were not unknown in the region and that they had been widely used, albeit not always with the objective of utilizing the proceeds towards improving the coastal environment. What was often required was the political will to use the instruments, and creating the conditions for their use would be one of the major tasks in the future. Before closing the GEF Project, all the outstanding activities on pilot projects and NAPs would be completed, while the policy guidelines for the use of EIs would soon be finalized.

108. Mr Weuder, Programme Officer, UNEP/GPA, said that in implementing the SAP and NAPs it was clear that national governments would have to bear the brunt of implementation and could only expect external resources at low levels given the resource demands for other environmental targets. There was accordingly a need to develop and strengthen mechanisms that would allow for long-term sustainable financing of their implementation through domestic resources.

109. Building long-term sustainable financing was a very long process and involved creating awareness of the need for financing of the environment and also awareness of the financial cycle of environmental investments, developing the capacity to formulate environmental financial demands at realistic affordable levels and introducing innovative arrangements. Such a process required cooperation and a common language between ministries of the environment and water resources and ministries of finance and planning. Furthermore, there was a general need to sequence activities to allow time for the development of framework conditions (legislation, capacity, institutions and acceptance of EIs). Using the short term to implement "hot spot" investments while developing such frameworks would allow for smooth implementation of the NAPs.

110. The UNEP/GEF Project currently being approved contained a component on strengthening capacity for long-term sustainable financing. UNEP/MAP and UNEP/GPA, together with other stakeholders, had been developing a series of actions as inputs to that component and had discussed three possible activities for 2005: a review of existing and potential financing sources in the Mediterranean region; the development of the UNEP/GEF component on long-term sustainable financing; and a workshop on regional activities to strengthen long-term sustainable financing.

Agenda item 10. Conclusions and recommendations

111. Following the presentations and discussions, the Meeting discussed and amended a number of draft conclusions and recommendations submitted in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/L.3. The amended text of the conclusions and recommendations is attached as Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 11. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

112. The Meeting adopted its report on the basis of the draft reports contained in documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.262/L.1 and L.2.

Agenda item 12. Closure of the Meeting

113. Many representatives took the floor to express their appreciation of the work carried out by the MED POL Secretariat, which had greatly contributed to the success of the Meeting.

114. The Chairperson declared the Meeting closed at 12.45 p.m. on Thursday, 16 November 2004.

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2.** Election of Officers
- Agenda item 3.** Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work
- Agenda item 4.** Review of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address Pollution from Land-based Activities and of its operational strategy (2001-2005)
- Agenda item 5.** National presentations on the preparation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs)
- Agenda item 6.** Review of achievements and problems emerged from the national presentations:
 - 6.1 Overall methodology used in the preparation of SP s and NAPs
 - 6.2 Preparation of investment portfolios
 - 6.3 Public participation
 - 6.4 Application of economic instruments
 - 6.5 Application of cleaner technology
- Agenda item 7.** Analysis of the sustainability of SAP
- Agenda item 8.** Institutional needs for the long-term implementation of NAPs
- Agenda item 9.** Prospects for economic sustainability of SAP
- Agenda item 10.** Conclusions and recommendations
- Agenda item 11.** Adoption of the report of the Meeting
- Agenda item 12.** Closing of the Meeting.

ANNEX III

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

All countries are actively involved in preparing sectoral plans and NAPs. Some have already prepared the first draft, while others are still at the preparatory stage. In some cases, however, the information available in the BB was not used to prepare the NAP, while in others there was no direct reference to the SAP targets of pollutant reduction or to the relevant timetables.

A number of countries have made effective progress in integrating public participation into the core of NAP preparation through the organization of stakeholders' meetings.

The investment portfolio is to be prepared following the identification of priority actions within the NAPs in order to achieve the objectives of the SAP. The progress achieved by the countries has not yet extended to preparation of investment portfolios.

Several actions have been identified as useful for better dissemination and implementation of cleaner production strategies and mechanisms that could incite industry to achieve effective reduction of the pollution generated by their activities, as targeted by the SAP.

Several representatives identified economic instruments (EIs), and the need to pay more attention to EIs when formulating NAPs was highlighted.

The insight gained into the progress made in formulating the NAPs has led to the following recommendations:

Preparation of sectoral plans and NAPs:

- MED POL should be provided with versions of the sectoral plans and NAPs adopted by the concerned national authority by the end of May 2005.
- Quantifiable reduction measures should be indicated in the NAPs, e.g.. X% reduction of the pollutant Y in relation to the BB, to be achieved within a specific time frame (year 2010).
- The NAPs should include a list of priority actions in order to meet the SAP targets for the year 2010, covering information on the reduction that would be achieved by implementing the action, identification of stakeholders, definition of the financial and administrative responsibilities of the stakeholders, identification of EIs, the time frame for implementation of the action, and the reduction tracking method.
- Exchange of expertise and experience between countries on common problems would be useful and MED POL should provide assistance for this purpose.

Investment portfolio:

- The formulation of the investment portfolio should be integrated into the NAP process.

- There should be compliance with the adopted methodology so that investment portfolios contain the most viable investments to be justified and presented to national, regional and other agencies for funding. Without an investment portfolio, the NAPs would be incomplete and implementation problems would be encountered in the future.
- In the preparation of investment portfolios, every effort should be made to utilize opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPP) in environmental investment.

Public participation:

- The public participation process should be integrated into the entire cycle of the NAPs, and the Secretariat should be requested to provide assistance as needed.
- There should be an active exchange of information among countries on their respective experiences in this regard.

Cleaner production:

- Implementation of existing legislation and tools (monitoring, permits, enforcement) should be optimized simultaneously and in parallel with the process of updating/developing the regulatory tools and related instruments needed to promote cleaner production as a strategy in the NAPs in order to fulfil SAP requirements and targets.
- Reliable environmental data should be obtained on economic and industrial activities (through monitoring, permit systems, declarations, etc.) in order to better quantify the trends and the progress attained.
- MAP and MED POL instruments and tools should be used (including the CP/RAC, UNEP/MAP websites, available technological databases) so as to benefit from their technical advice and knowledge on cleaner production strategies, tools, methodologies, activities, etc.
- Local experts on cleaner production should be identified, and their capacities should be used in the NAP and sectoral plan implementation processes.

Economic instruments:

- The focus should be on the economic instruments (EIs) that can be in operation by 2010, provided that they support the attainment of the main objectives of the SAP.
- The EIs should be tailored to fit into the existing legislative and institutional frameworks.
- The effects on the environment, the economy and society of proposed EIs, separately and together, should be assessed with due attention.
- Implementation measures and procedures (administration and responsibilities in particular) should be clearly defined, as should the monitoring system (indicators of the efficiency of EI implementation).
- Work should begin on elaboration of new EIs for the long term, on the understanding that changes will be made to the legal and institutional framework.

Evaluation of SAP vis-à-vis sustainable development principles:

- The SAP sustainability assessment presented by the Secretariat should be considered a confirmation that the SAP implementation process represents a first important step towards achieving sustainable development.

Institutional set-up:

- The existence of appropriate national arrangements/structures should be considered indispensable for ensuring the sustainability of implementation of NAPs.

Financial sustainability:

- The MAP/GEF Strategic Partnership for implementation of the SAP should be welcomed and supported.
- National economic instruments should be considered the major financing instruments to be included in NAPs.

Role of MED POL:

- The Meeting recognized the valuable role of MED POL, in particular the MED POL Coordinator, MED POL Programme Officer, the GEF Project Manager, and the consultants, in ensuring the success of the SAP implementation process.

